

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 030182

73

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /065 R

DRAFTED BY: AF/C:DLCARDWELL

APPROVED BY: AF/C:TBUCHANAN

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P R 070155Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SOPN CT

SUBJECT: CAR EMBASSY'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON

-- ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

1. AMBASSADOR MAIDOU HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT CAR'S EMBASSY HERE ON AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 6, TO "CLARIFY EVENTS OF THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT" MAIDOU SAID THAT IN VIEW OF CONFLICTING PRESS REPORTS GOCAR HAD INSTRUCTED ALL ITS EMBASSIES TO USE GOCAR'S FEBRUARY 4 PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNIQUE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

2. AFTER READING THE COMMUNIQUE, MAIDOU EXPRESSED BOKASSAS APPRECIATION FOR THE MESSAGES HE HAD RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS HEADS OF STATE, INCLUDING PRESIDENT FORD, ADDING THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU MADE A SPECIAL TRIP TO CAR ON FEBRUARY 5 TO DELIVER A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO BOKASSA.

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PAGE 02 STATE 030182

3. OUT OF THE TEN MEDIA AGENCIES INVITED ONLY VOA, AFP,

TAIWAN CENTRAL NEWS AND ABC NEWS ATTENDED THE PRESS CONFERENCE. MOST OF THE CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT WERE MIFFED BY MAIDOU'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT QUESTIONS FOLLOWING HIS READING OF THE COMMUNIQUE, ENGLISH AND FRENCH VERSIONS OF WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO EACH ATTENDEE UPON ARRIVAL. THE AFP CORRESPONDENT WAS QUITE VOCAL IN COMMENTING ON

THE ABSURDITY OF CALLING A PRESS CONFERENCE AND NOT PERMITTING CORRESPONDENTS TO POSE QUESTIONS. AFTER HEARING THE COMMUNIQUE, EXCEPT FOR VOA, ALL CORRESPONDENTS DEPARTED ABRUPTLY, DECLINING MAIDOU'S OFFER OF REFRESHMENTS. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE030182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/C:DLCARDWELL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760048-0070
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760271/aaaackou.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAR EMBASSY'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON -- ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, CT, (BOKASSA, JEAN BEDEL)
To: BANGUI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006